



## Administrative Assistant to the Selectmen

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To: Selectmen  
From: Stu  
Re: Other Communities – Heating Funds  
Date: November 23, 2011

I sent a message on the Maine Town, City & County Management list-serve this week asking folks if they have any type of heating assistance fund and if so, how it works. I received numerous replies back and will summarize each community's program. Many thanks to all of my colleagues who were kind enough to respond.

**Readfield** – The town accepts donations from the public, and allocates 100-gallons of fuel or a cord of wood to an eligible household. The household must not qualify for General Assistance, and the limitation is that they be on a fixed income, have an income 120% or less of the poverty level, seasonal workers recently laid off, or at the discretion of the General Assistance administrator. Application is a General Assistance form.

**South Berwick** – A non-profit organization acts as the fiscal agent. Clients are assessed for qualification for General Assistance and if they do not qualify for GA but can prove a need, they might be eligible.

**Turner** – The town limits recipients to those who do not qualify for General Assistance but are receiving less than 200% of the federal poverty level. It is funded by donations.

**North Berwick** – The program is funded by donations. Applicants are limited to 2-deliveries of 100-gallons a season. Fuel tank must be less than ¼ full at time of application. Maximum income level is 120% of poverty level.

**Winthrop** – Applicants need to demonstrate a need by comparing household income to necessary expenses and are limited to one delivery per season. Those who quit a job without cause, have been fired or have committed program violations that result in disqualification are not eligible for benefits unless the administrator determines there were extenuating circumstances.

**Fairfield** – The program has \$10,000 available which supplements General Assistance. It serves households with incomes up to 150% of the poverty level and is managed in the same manner as GA. They've spent about \$2,000 in 3-years and it's only been used 11-times.

**Scarborough** – Uses a pair of existing town based organizations. The town conducted a fund raising campaign, and disburses funds to the project and the organizations take care of the applications and eligibility guidelines. The budget goal is \$50,000 based on perceived need of 100-households at \$500 each.

**Gouldsboro** – A power and heating fund was set up a few years ago and has succeeded in receiving numerous donations. They have an unwritten policy that anyone who does not qualify for GA is eligible and is working well.